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(54)

Compound capable of adhering on smooth aluminium surfaces and binding with P.T.F.E. film.

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This invention concerns a product which can on one hand adhere on smooth aluminium surfaces and on the other bind with P.T.F.E., consisting of a polyamide-imide resin (known commercially as RHODEFTAL 200) mixed with dimethylamine-ethanol (known commercially as REXOLIN) and water in suitable percentages.

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This design patent application concerns a compound capable of adhering on smooth aluminium surfaces and binding with P.T.F.E. film (polytetrafluoroethylene), known commercially as "TEFLON".

The compound according to the invention was developed to resolve the problems related to the application of P.T.F.E. films on metal surfaces.

It should be remembered that P.T.F.E. is an organic compound which can resist a temperature of up to 250 °C continuously or a temperature of 400 °C for briefer periods. Thanks to this property and to its excellent anti-adhesion properties, P.T.F.E. is very widely used for realizing cooking pots and pans, tableware for the home and for all those items which require easy cleaning and must be resistant to high temperatures.

If on one hand the non-adhering qualities of this organic compound make the items on which it is used easy to clean, on the other hand, these very same qualities create the problem of how to make the P.T.F.E. adhere to the surfaces treated, in that P.T.F.E. is very difficult to bond chemically with other materials, in particular with metals, glass or ceramics, which are the materials principally used for manufacturing kitchenware.

Despite this, it has been proven that it is possible to adhere P.T.F.E. to an aluminium surface if the latter is previously roughened so as to provide a mechanical hold for the P.T.F.E. film.

One of the most common and widely used methods for roughening the aluminium surface consists of chemical pickling process which attacks the metal surface which is to be coated with NaOH (sodium hydroxide, commonly known as caustic soda) and HCL (hydrochloric acid).

In the production of aluminium pots and pans, metal disks, in various diameters and thickness, are immersed in a NaOH bath for degreasing and then in successive baths of HCL which attacks the metal surface thereby making it rough, and covering it with micro-cavities so as to provide the required mechanical hold.

P.T.F.E. is applied on the surface of the disks in an aqueous solution to ensure its penetration into the pores produced by the previous pickling treatment; the disks are then placed in kilns, where the P.T.F.E. is sintered at a temperature of 370 °C; once the P.T.F.E. has solidified it is trapped in the micro-cavities on the metal surface.

The above system is commonly used for manufacturing aluminium pots and pans and consists of a pickling system in which the disks are first placed into successive treatment tanks and are then rinsed and dried and then conveyed to a series of "rolling machines" which apply the layer of P.T.F.E. with a lithographic type technique.

Each rolling machine consists of two rollers, a metal roller and a rubber roller, which rotate touching each other, and over which the aqueous solution of P.T.F.E. runs; the bottom of the rubber roller touches the pickled disks and uniformly applies the P.T.F.E. solution on the same.

In order to increase the thickness of the P.T.F.E. film, a set of rolling machines is used; the disks are coated repeatedly with the product and are dried before each successive coating; in general, there are four rolling machines, in which the same aqueous solution of P.T.F.E. with the addition of pigments, is used.

The above procedure consists of a thorough pickling of the aluminium with which large quantities of metals are removed remaining bound to the acids and to the bases of the tanks, so that their corrosive properties are very quickly exhausted.

The solutions in the tanks must therefore be replaced very frequently and the depleted solutions processed through purifying systems before drainage into the sewage system.

Since the purification of the depleted solutions yields water and mud containing a quantity of aluminium salts directly proportional to the quantity of aluminium in the solutions, drainage of these muds in the sewage system increases the overall management costs of the purification system, which in itself is very high.

The purpose of this invention is to develop a product which can on one hand adhere to smooth aluminium surfaces and on the other bind with P.T.F.E. so as to make the above process less expensive, faster and less polluting, thanks to the possibility of eliminating the costly and lengthy deep pickling treatment currently required to roughen the metal surface so as to allow the film of TEFLON to adhere.

The compound according to the invention consists of a polyamide-imide resin (known commercially as RHODEFTAL 200) mixed with dimethylamine-ethanol (commercially known as REXOLIN) and water in the following percentages:

A - RHODEFTAL 200 (Polyamide-imide)	35.714%
B - REXOLIN (dimethylamine-ethanol)	7.143%
C - WATER	57.143%

The mixture percentage of component (A) with respect to component (B) may vary by plus or minus 5%, as may do the mixture percentage of component (C) with respect to components (A + B).

By applying this compound on the previously degreased smooth aluminium surface, a first layer is formed on the disk over which the successive layers of TEFLON will easily and efficiently adhere.

Claims

1. A compound which can adhere to smooth aluminium surfaces and bind with P.T.F.E. film, consisting of a polyamide-imide resin (commercially known as RHODEFTAL 200) mixed with dimethylamine-ethanol (commercially known as REXOLIN) and water in the following percentages:

A - RHODEFTAL 200 (Polyamide-imide)	35.714%
B - REXOLIN (dimethylamine-ethanol)	7.143%
C - WATER	57.143%

characterized in that the mixture percentage of component (A) with respect to component (B) may vary by plus or minus 5%, as may do the mixture percentage of component (C) with respect to components (A + B).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 83 0636

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	DATABASE CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS (HOST STN), vol. 78, no. 18, 1973, abstract no. 112794d, Columbus, Ohio, US; & JP-A-47 031 096 (DAIKIN IND.) 11-08-1972 -----		C 09 J 179/08 B 32 B 15/08 B 32 B 7/12
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			C 09 J B 32 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16-03-1993	Examiner LEROY A J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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